

Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup> is America Recycles Day, sponsored by Keep America Beautiful, a volunteer-based community action and education organization. Its mission aims to change behaviors that improve communities through litter prevention, waste reduction and recycling, and beautification and community greening. America Recycles Day focuses on engaging citizens to become well informed and enthusiastic about recycling. Citizens are encouraged to learn what items can be recycled in their communities and make a renewed effort to recycle more. Further information can be found at [kab.org](http://kab.org).

This year, I am particularly excited about America Recycles Day since I have recently been hired as the Belmont Recycling Coordinator and will work to highlight these same initiatives. My hope is that Belmont residents will review the recycling, trash and yard waste information, which can be found on the Town's webpage under the Department of Public Works Highway Division or in the Collection Calendar. By rechecking the guidelines of curbside recycling some residents might discover an item listed that hasn't been making it into their recycling bin or learn that plastic grocery bags are to be recycled at local grocery stores and not with their curbside recycling because the bags clog up the recyclable materials separation equipment.

Starting on America Recycles Day, my goal is to have residents that are not currently recycling to give it a try. A recycling bin or paper bag next to where the mail is sorted in the home is handy for keeping junk mail, newspapers, catalogues and cardboard boxes out of the trash. For residents that recycle I encourage you to follow the three R's- Reduce, Reuse and then Recycle. Reduce consumption of plastic packaging by eliminating single servings of food and beverage and buying in bulk. Reusable water bottles, coffee cups and grocery bags are excellent ways to cut down on goods. Lastly, if you can't reduce, or reuse make sure to recycle.

Following this recycling mantra will help preserve natural resources, reduce pollution, save energy and even save money for the Town. Tipping fees will decline as the amount of trash sent to the incinerator decreases. It is these small actions listed above that can be done every day that can become good habits to help save money, make our community greener and benefit the environment.

I look forward to working in Belmont as your Recycling Coordinator and welcome any feedback. I can be reached at [mcالنان@belmont-ma.gov](mailto:mcالنان@belmont-ma.gov) or 617-993-2689.